

REMARKS

Claims 22-35 have been previously withdrawn and cancelled. The claims remaining in the application are 1-21 and 36-41.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 1, 16, 36, 37, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shibasaki (U.S. 6,938,969). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant once again submits that Shibasaki does not teach or suggest the use of an adjustable mechanism for moving the exposure heads relative to each other to change a spacing there between while each exposure head is imaging.

Rather, Shibasaki teaches away from this by stating in reference to Figure 6 that “[t]o print different images, one head 34a (or 34b) having completed a mainscanning of one line waits until the other head 24b (or 34a) completes a main-scanning. After both the heads 34a, 34b complete mainscannings, the print sheets 46a, 46b are concurrently conveyed in the sub-scanning direction, and then both heads simultaneously start the next mainscanning.” (Col. 5, lines 41-54). One skilled in the art would likely conclude that since one head waits while another head completes its mainscanning, Shibasaki does not teach or suggest changing a spacing between the exposure heads while each exposure head is imaging.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 3 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibasaki in view of Gamblin (U.S. 4,131,898). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibasaki in view of Gamblin, as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Sawano et al. (JP 2000-343779). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1, 3, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0048467) in view of Shibasaki. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action has rejected claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. in view of Shibasaki, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nakao et al. (U.S. 5,359,434). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Okamoto et al. discloses an image recorder having more than one recording head. The recording heads are moved concurrently during recording (see paragraph [0045]). The spacing between the recording heads may be adjusted before recording and image by selecting starting positions for the recording heads based on image data (see paragraphs [0046] and [0047]). Accordingly, Okamoto et al. does not teach or suggest “an adjustable mechanism for moving the exposure heads relative to each other to change a spacing therebetween while each exposure head is imaging” as recited in claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action has allowed claims 2, 15, 17-21, and 40.

The Office Action has objected to claim 39 but will allow the claim if it is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 39 has been amended.

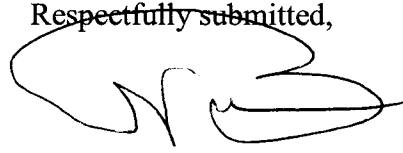
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.